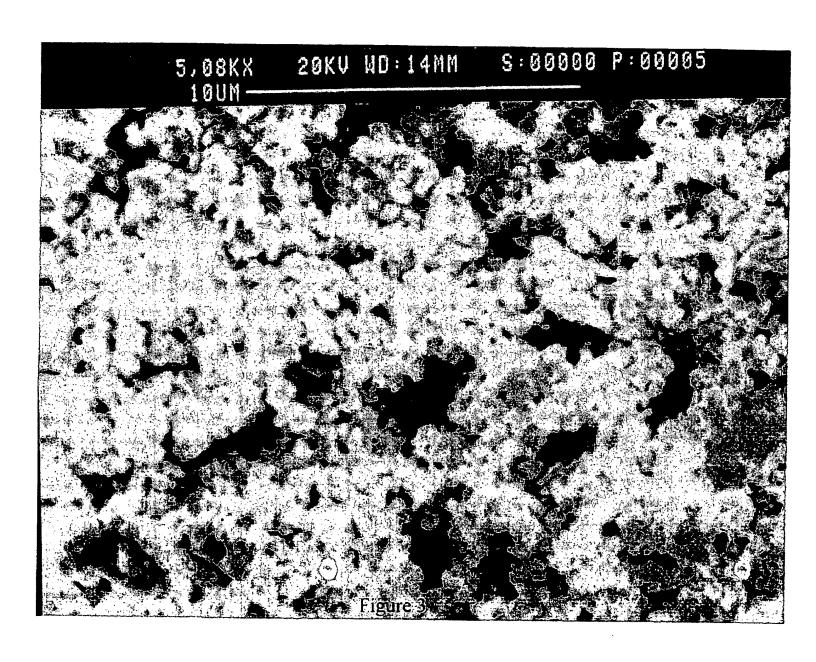


Fig. 2. Evaporation-Condensation Mechanism. It is based on the equilibrium (forward and reverse) reaction: $Ta + \frac{5}{2}I_2 = TaI_5$. The equilibrium coupled to the surface stress will drive the sintering reaction toward the right.

CONDENSATION: TaI_5 (gas) $\rightarrow TaI_5$ (surf.) TaI_5 (surf.) $\rightarrow Ta + 5$ I (surf.) I surface diffusion Bonded Ta particles EVAPORATION: TaI_5 (gas)



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